

Indiana Democrats end standoff and return to State

By Emma G. Fitzsimmons
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO — The political standoff over union rights and school vouchers in Indiana ended Monday as House Democrats returned to the Capitol almost five weeks after they fled the state.

Whether it was an effective protest depends on whether you are a Democrat or a Republican. Democrats said they ended the walkout after Republicans agreed to make changes to several pieces of legislation. Republicans said the concessions were minor.

A major point of contention had been a bill that would prohibit any requirement that employees in private sector workplaces pay union dues or fees, but Republicans withdrew the measure last month.

Before returning to the House floor for an evening session, Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, the minority leader, said Democrats had been successful in softening the worst parts of the Republicans’ agenda. One compromise, for instance, limited the number of students involved in a

private school voucher program. “This timeout gave millions of Hoosiers a real voice in their state government,” Bauer said.

All but three Democratic members of the House left the state for Urbana, Ill., on Feb. 22 to block Republicans from having a quorum. While they were gone, Republicans issued fines against the Democrats and publicly called on them to return to work. On Monday, Rep. Brian C. Bosma, speaker of the Indiana House, welcomed the Democrats’ return and argued that the Republicans had conceded little.

“I am pleased that a combination of patience and public pressure has caused them to return,” Bosma said.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican, restated his plans to lower taxes and spending and to improve education.

“The only thing ‘radical’ about this session has been the decision by one caucus to walk off the job for five weeks,” Daniels said. “Now that it’s finally over, let’s make up the lost time.”

The Indiana boycott had received less national attention than a similar standoff in Wisconsin

where Democrats also fled the state in February, but the Indiana delegation was away for longer. In Wisconsin, the Republicans did not wait for Democrats to return. They pushed a collective bargaining measure through the Senate by using a procedural maneuver while the Democrats were still away.

The battle over the Wisconsin bill, which limits collective bargaining rights for public workers, continued Monday. The administration of Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, began to carry out the law even though some state officials said it should not yet take effect.

Earlier this month, Judge Maryann Sumi of Dane County Circuit Court in Madison barred the secretary of state from publishing the law — a procedural requirement — while she considered a lawsuit claiming that Republicans violated open meeting requirements in passing the bill. But a state agency unexpectedly published the law on Friday.

On Monday, Mike Huebsch, secretary of Wisconsin’s Department of Administration, said he had started to enact the changes in the law.

Facebook prepares for lobbying push in Washington

By Miguel Helft and Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Facebook is hoping to do something better and faster than any other technology start-up-turned-Internet superpower.

Befriend Washington. Facebook has layered its executive, legal, policy, and communications ranks with high-powered politicos from both parties, beefing up its firepower for future battles in Washington and beyond. There’s Sheryl Sandberg, the former Clinton administration who is chief operating officer, and Ted Ulyot, a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who is general counsel, among others. The latest candidate is Robert Gibbs, President Barack Obama’s former White House press secretary, whom Facebook is trying to lure to its communications team.

With good reason, political and legal analysts say. Barely seven

years after it was born in a Harvard dorm room, Facebook, as much as any other company, is redefining the notion of privacy and transforming communications, media and advertising in the Internet age.

While the company has come under fire for a series of privacy stumbles, it largely remains a darling of politicians — even earning a glowing mention in the State of the Union. But Facebook has watched the missteps of Microsoft and Google in Washington, and knows that its current skirmishes are merely a prelude to looming clashes over its influence on the economic and social Web. And so it is building a stalwart defense, moving at broadband speed from start-up to realpolitik strategist.

“Information is the gold or the oil of the economy in the information age,” said Paul M. Schwartz, a law professor and expert in information technology at the law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

Schwartz said Facebook seemed to have learned quickly that demands for regulation would pile up, not just from users and advocacy groups, but from competitors.

“What they’re doing is pragmatic, and it’s pragmatic to do it sooner rather than later,” he said.

Facebook declined to comment on its conversations with Gibbs, who is considering a position in Silicon Valley, not Washington.

The company said it understood the importance of having a Washington presence, mainly so it could explain its social networking service and its many features and privacy policies to lawmakers and regulators. But it played down the importance of having connections to both sides of the political spectrum.

Still, some privacy advocates are fretting over Facebook’s new hires. These critics say the company’s growing Washington connections will dampen reasonable criticisms about some Facebook policies.

Blast at Yemeni arms factory follows government’s retreat

By Laura Kasinof and Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen’s political crisis deepened Monday when an explosion tore through a crowd of looters at an abandoned government weapons factory in the south, killing at least 110 people and underscoring an ominous collapse of authority after six weeks of rising protests.

In recent days, government forces have abandoned their posts across the country, including areas where northern rebels have long challenged the military and southern provinces where al-Qaida’s Arabian branch has maintained sanctuaries, Yemeni officials and witnesses said.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh cast the government’s losses in stark terms Sunday, telling a committee from his political party that six of Yemen’s 18 provinces “have fallen.”

But some Yemeni officials and analysts said the government with-

drawals, and Saleh’s dramatic claim, might be at least partly a ploy to warn his backers in the West and the Arab world about possible consequences were he to fall from power.

Last week, battered by the defections of top military supporters as well as vast demonstrations in Sanaa, the capital, and in other major cities, Saleh took part in discussions mediated by U.S. diplomats aimed at a peaceful transfer of power.

The talks bogged down, and Saleh has since hardened his public stance, saying he would make no more concessions.

The strains on Yemen’s fragile state have grown worse since government supporters opened fire on protesters in the capital March 18, killing at least 50 and igniting outrage across the country.

On Monday, the opposition parties, known as the JMP, released a statement saying of the factory explosion: “This horrible crime came after the order of the authority to

openly withdraw its military and security in favor of al-Qaida and other armed groups, in a desperate attempt of President Saleh to confirm his argument that Yemen is just a ticking time bomb.”

The explosion took place as crowds of impoverished local residents were looting the factory for valuable weapons, witnesses said. It appears to have been accidental, possibly caused by a lit cigarette on gunpowder or a gun used to open a room full of dynamite.

There were differing accounts of how the factory was abandoned; some news reports said militants clashed with security guards Sunday and captured the factory and two local towns.

But several people in the area said the factory’s guards abandoned it voluntarily, and that hooligans — not religious militants — appeared shortly afterward to loot armored cars, machine guns and ammunition.

Michigan cuts jobless benefits by six weeks to lowest in nation

Michigan, whose unemployment rate has topped 10 percent longer than that of any other state, is about to set another record. Its new Republican governor, Rick Snyder, signed a law Monday that will lead the state to pay fewer weeks of unemployment benefits next year than any other state.

Democrats and advocates for the unemployed expressed outrage that a such a hard-hit state will become the most miserly when it comes to how long it pays benefits to those who have lost their jobs. All states pay up to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, before extended benefits paid by the federal government kick in. Michigan’s new law means that starting next year, when the federal benefits are currently set to end, the state will stop paying benefits to the jobless after 20 weeks. The shape of future extensions is unclear.

Republicans and business groups said that cutting benefits was necessary because the state’s unemployment trust fund, which was ill-prepared to cope with the Great Recession, is insolvent. The state owes the federal government nearly \$4 billion that it borrowed to keep its program afloat, and unemployment taxes on businesses have already been raised, and will need to be raised more, to repay the money. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce called the new law “a huge win for job providers” and said it could save up to \$300 million a year.

—Michael Cooper, *The New York Times*

UN human rights group calls on China to release lawyer

BEIJING — A U.N. human rights agency has demanded that the Chinese government immediately release a prominent Chinese human rights lawyer who has been detained for nearly a year, according to a statement released Monday by an advocacy group. The lawyer, Gao Zhisheng, had said he was tortured when he was detained in 2007, and again for 14 months that ended in March 2010.

“The U.N. Working Group held that the detention violated international law because Gao’s disappearance was punishment for exercising his fundamental human rights and because the government failed to meet even the minimum international standards for due process,” the group said in a written statement. That statement was first sent to the Chinese government in July, and was made public Monday by Freedom Now, an advocacy group that has worked on Gao’s case.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry had no immediate response. China Human Rights Defenders, an advocacy group, said last week that at least 23 people had been detained in relation to mysterious calls that surfaced on the Internet for a “Jasmine Revolution” in China, modeled after the recent Tunisian uprising.

—Edward Wong, *The New York Times*

Kabul Bank is portrayed as private ATM for Afghan elite

KABUL, Afghanistan — When a brother of the Afghan president wanted to invest in a cement factory, he took out a \$2.9 million loan; he also took out \$6 million for a town house in Dubai. When the bank’s chief executive wanted to invest in newly built apartments in Kabul, he took almost \$18 million.

The terms were hard to beat: no collateral, little or no interest. And no repayment due date.

Those are just a few of the loans detailed in a damning internal report by Afghanistan’s own Central Bank, which depicts the Afghan political elite as using Kabul Bank, the country’s biggest financial institution, as its private piggy bank.

The report also suggests that Kabul Bank’s long-term finances are in much more dire shape than previously understood, a condition that explains why the Central Bank has been discussing putting the bank into receivership. The International Monetary Fund is pressing for receivership as a condition of renewing its program with Afghanistan. Without the IMF’s blessing, some major donors are required by their own laws to withhold aid from the country.

Whether the Afghan government will approve the dissolution of the bank is not yet clear, but whatever its future, as the Central Bank outlines in its report, there will be high costs for the Afghan government, which will have to make good on the non-performing loans in order to keep depositors whole.

—Alissa J. Rubin and Rod Nordland, *The New York Times*

India reports gains in wild tiger population

NEW DELHI — India said Monday that it was making progress in saving endangered tigers, with a new nationwide survey estimating a 20 percent increase in their numbers in the wild over the last five years.

The survey, released by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, put India’s current tiger population at 1,706, compared with 1,411 in 2006. The new figure is an extrapolation based on photographic evidence in sample sites, along with other indicators.

India is home to about half of the world’s wild tigers. Their numbers had declined sharply for decades, largely because of poaching and the pressures of development encroaching on their natural habitat.

“These numbers give us hope for the future of tigers in the world,” Jim Leape, the international director of the World Wildlife Fund, said in a statement. “India continues to play an integral role in the tiger’s recovery.”

Jairam Ramesh, the environment minister, cautioned that the country faced a major challenge in providing enough habitat for tigers to roam wild. He said that the survey concluded that the amount of land occupied by tigers was shrinking, squeezing their living space.

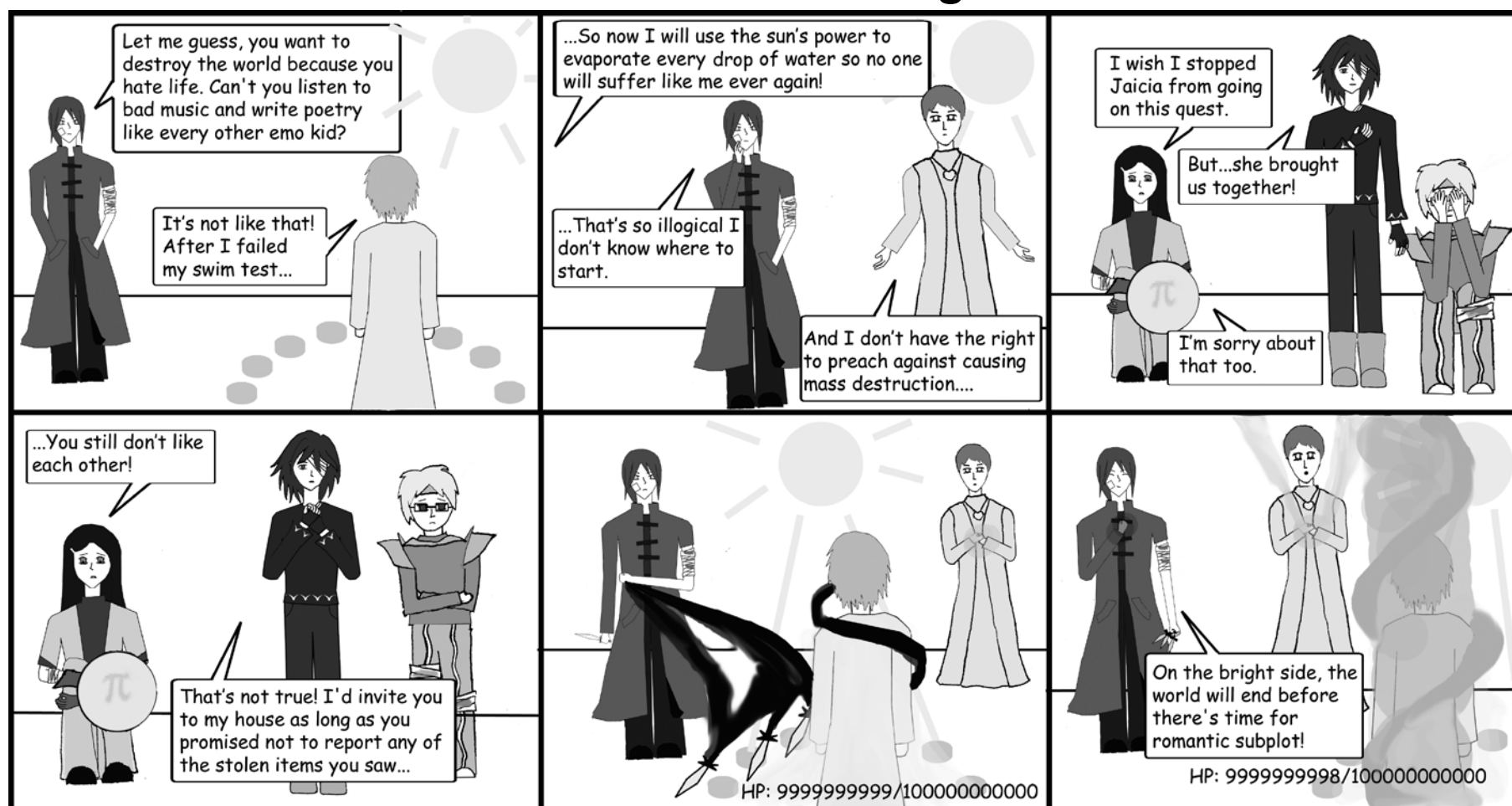
“There is a decrease in tiger occupancy, which shows that tiger corridors are under biggest threat,” Ramesh said here Monday at an international conference on tiger conservation, according to Indian news media reports.

A majority of India’s tigers live in the country’s 39 reserves, but the survey found that more than a quarter of them live outside the reserves. The survey was the first to include the Sundarbans, the region of mangrove forests on the border of India and Bangladesh, where 70 tigers were counted.

—Jim Yardley, *The New York Times*

WORLD&NATIONWORLD&NATIONWORLD&NATIONWORLD&NATIONWORLD

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li



Dilbert by Scott Adams



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 18

Across

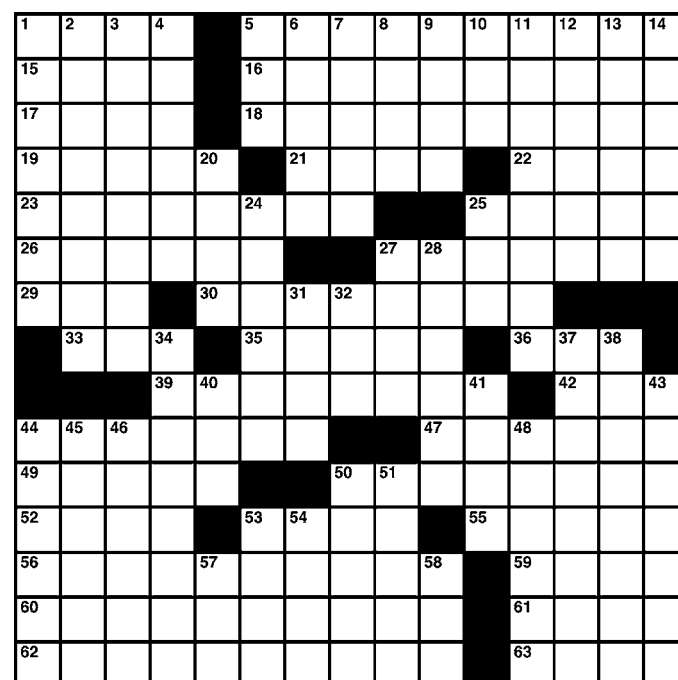
- 1 Often dramatic number
- 5 Dumps
- 15 Finds fault with
- 16 Dashiell Hammett's last novel
- 17 Marsh critter
- 18 Tubeless and with no moving parts, in electronics
- 19 Site of the mythical Lethe River
- 21 Little foxes
- 22 Bible book before Nehemiah
- 23 "Care to make it interesting?"
- 25 Trout spot
- 26 Personification
- 27 How to see the obvious
- 29 Feminine force
- 30 Speed limit posting, e.g.
- 33 Lawn strip
- 35 Acknowledge silently
- 36 Obtain

- 39 Wearing a bolero
42 Lab alert?
44 Some modern tribal
 operations
47 Grammy category
49 Recline next to
50 Blush, for one
52 River to the Ligurian Sea
53 Playback machines, briefly
55 Move (away), like a
 coward
56 "See ya!"
59 Juvenile retort
60 "London Fields" novelist
61 Prom dancer
62 Very slow rate
63 Disposal bits

Down

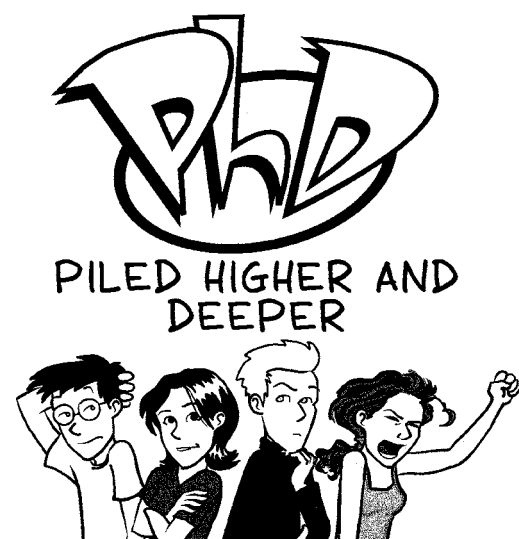
- Down**
- 1 Majestic entrance
 - 2 Uncommon thing
 - 3 Successor to the mini
 - 4 Climb
 - 5 Bourbon and Sesame: Abbr.
 - 6 Require the Heimlich

- maneuver
7 Kindled again
8 Busting one's hump
9 Profs' degrees
10 Casual greetings
11 Recording, as in a journal
12 Online shopping mecca
13 Cop's duty
14 Double-dealing
20 Franco-German border
region
24 Rodeo mount
25 Specialty, slangily
27 Three-part H.S. exam
28 Some water bottles
31 NASA go-aheads
32 '50s pres.
34 Horn of Africa country
37 Boggle accessory
38 Toy with an engine
40 Vague amount
41 32-Down wasn't one of
them
43 S'poses
44 They may be staked

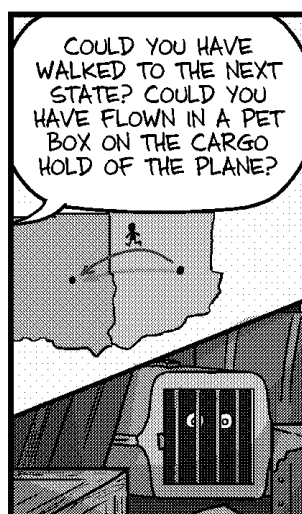
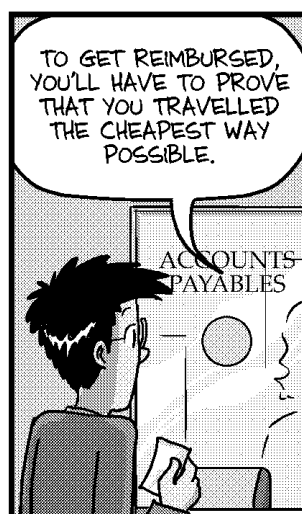


- 45 Aviator
46 Chihuahua female
48 Italian for "frozen"
50 Espresso foam
51 Courtier in "Hamlet"

- 53 Movers, but hopefully not
shakers
- 54 Fellow
- 57 '80s band '___ Tuesday
- 58 Language suffix

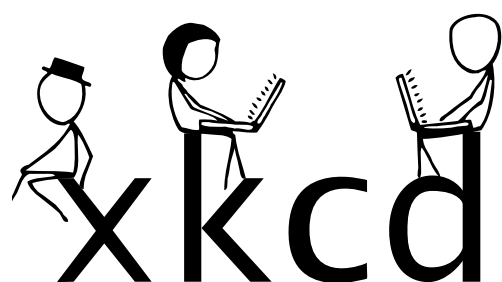


by Jorge Cham



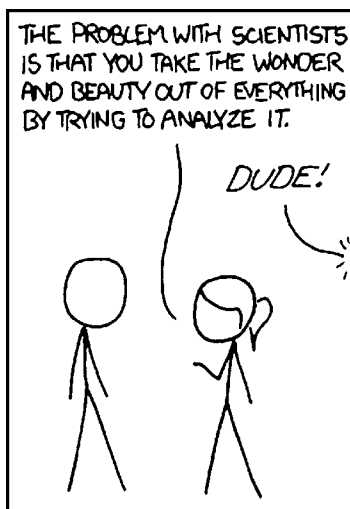
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Beauty



4 WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe



MY PLASMIDAL SLIME MOLDS
HAVE HEIGHTENED PIGMENT
PRODUCTION! CHECK OUT THAT
YELLOW COLOR! THAT ACTUALLY
MAKES THEM ZINC-RESISTANT.
AMAZING, HUH?



IT LOOKS LIKE DOG BARF.

HAH, YEAH! F. SEPTICA IS NICKNAMED "DOG VOMIT SLIME MOLD." COOL, HUH? CHECK OUT MY SLIDES!



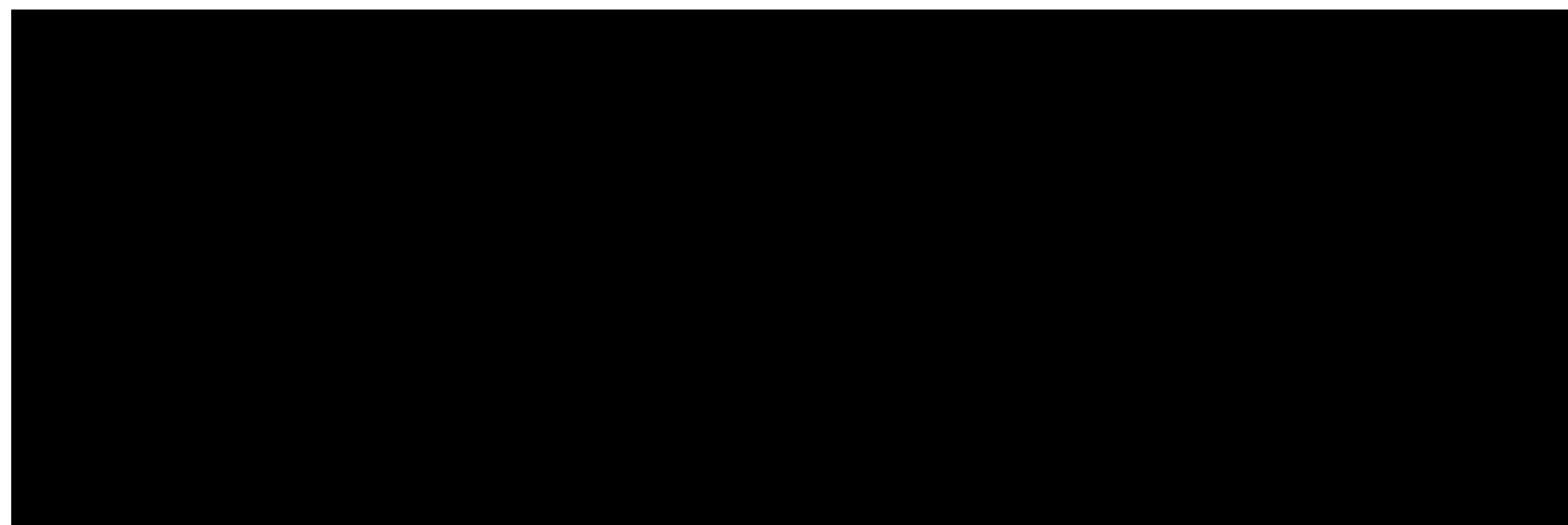
OKAY, NEVER MIND: WHAT'S WRONG WITH SCIENTISTS IS THAT YOU *DO* SEE WONDER AND BEAUTY IN EVERYTHING.

OH GOD, IT'S MOVING!

IT WANTS TO HUG
YOU! SO CUTE



The best hugs are probably from hagfish, which can extrude microscopic filaments that convert a huge volume of water around them to slime in seconds. Instant cozy blanket!



Sudoku

Solution, page 16

			9	1				
		5			8	4		1
		2			6		8	
2						8	4	
	6	4	3		1	2	7	
	9	8						6
	5		8			3		
4		9	1			6		
				4	9			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 16

30x			12+		
	144x			20x	
5x		36x			6
2-			45x		
72x					1-
5		7+		2	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

MIT's funniest stand-ups, in competition

MIT stand-up comics compete in the National College Comedy Competition on Thursday

By Joanna Kao
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Eight MIT students — Vanessa C. Bowens '12, William D. Drevo '13, Paul G. Hlebowitsh '11, Michael T. Lin '11, Ronan K. McGovern G, Matthew R. Rodriguez '11, Jacob S. Sharpe '11, and Xindi Song '10 — will be competing in the Regional Rivals event against Tufts University in the 4th Annual National College Comedy Competition this Thursday at Mottley's Comedy Club. The eight students were chosen by a preliminary competition held at MIT last month. This is the second year MIT has participated in the competition, which is sponsored by TBS and Rooftop Comedy.

Thanks to the team's performance last year, MIT was invited to compete this year, along with 31 other schools from across the nation.

"[This competition] is a big deal for us because it gets us a lot of attention. It's a national competition, and it's TBS," Drevo said.

The eight representing MIT have varying levels of experience in comedy, some having done stand-up for several years and some just starting out. Six of the eight competing, all but Hlebowitsh and Song, are involved in the MIT Stand-Up Comedy Club (SUCC).

At the Regional Rivals event, teams go head-to-head with a rival team from the area; in MIT's case, Tufts. The top four comics

on each team are determined by a combination of audience voting and judging by professional comics. "It's good to have people there," Drevo said. "It would be really great if people could come to watch since voting is done via audience decision."

If the team makes it through this round, the top four individuals will head into the select 16 elimination round where the public will be able to view their set from Regional Rivals and vote online. The top eight will be selected by online vote as well. During the next round — the Conference Rival Match — each team creates a five minute video to roast their opponents. After public votes narrow the number of competing teams to

four, professional judges will pick the winner and four MVPs. The four MVPs will win a trip to Chicago and get to perform at the "TBS Presents: Just For Laughs" festival.

How does the MIT team they think they're going to do? "I think we have the potential to go all the way. Also, Jacob Sharpe is very serious about comedy. He has a hilarious set. There's an MVP award, and I think he has a good shot for that as well as the team award. I think we'll go pretty far," Drevo said.

For more information visit <http://www.rooftopcomedy.com/college/>. To see MIT's stand-up comics on Thursday, buy tickets for \$10 at Mottley's box office or online at <http://www.mottleyscomedy.com>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW POWELL

Ronan K. McGovern G performs at Rooftop Comedy's preliminary stand-up competition at MIT. As part of the 4th annual National College Comedy Competition, MIT's team will rival Tufts University at Mottley's Comedy Club this Thursday.

Meet the comics

Name: Ronan K. McGovern G
Major/Area of study: Mechanical Engineering (Energy and Water Technologies)
Years you've done stand-up: 0.5



Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: Americans love the Irish accent, but they don't understand what I'm saying.

Best experience doing stand-up: The second of the only two times I've done stand-up.

Worst experience doing stand-up: The first of the only two times I've done stand-up.

What are you doing to prepare? How long have you prepared?
Watching the *King's Speech*. The time to drink 22 cups of tea.

What are you looking forward to the most?
The least?
Laughing. Silence.

Name: Xindi Song '10
Major/Area of study: Biology
Years you've done stand-up: 0.5
Years you've competed: 0



Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: I left a bag of Sour Patch Kids out for too long, and by the time I got back to them, they were Sour Patch Adults.

Best experience doing stand-up: Getting to be a part of the competition on Thursday.

Worst experience doing stand-up: Bombing at a poet-centric open mic.


What are you doing to prepare? How long have you prepared?
Picking out my best jokes, memorizing them, doing open mics. I started preparing a couple weeks ago using the jokes that I've written in the past half year.

What are you looking forward to the most? The least?
I'm looking forward to having fun on stage with the audience. The least? Well, let's not talk about that. Hopefully it'll be good!

Name: Paul G. Hlebowitsh '11
Major/Area of study: Electrical Engineering
Years you've done stand-up: 1
Years you've competed: 0
Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: I wrote you a poem. Let me tell you what's sonnet.
Best experience doing stand-up: My only stand-up routine.
Worst experience doing stand-up: My only stand-up routine.
What are you doing to prepare?
How long have you prepared? I'm just practicing my routine; nothing too exciting. A bunch of us are meeting to go over our sets later.
What are you looking forward to? What I'm most looking forward to is I'm least looking forward to is the



Name: Vanessa C. BOWENS '12
Major/Area of study: Urban Studies and Planning
Years you've done stand-up: 1
Years you've competed: 1
Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: My sets are usually stories, so I don't have any short jokes or one-liners.
Best experience doing stand-up: Making the MIT team last year. It was the very first time I'd performed.
Worst experience doing stand-up: I haven't yet had a terrible experience doing stand-up.
What are you doing to prepare? How long have you prepared? I already know what I'm going to perform, so I haven't practiced to set in front of a stopwatch so that
What are you looking forward to? I'm looking forward to seeing if I'm nervous about which four come to the next round.



Name: Michael T. Lin '11
Major: Comparative Media Studies, Materials Science and Engineering
Years you've done stand-up: 3
Years you've competed: 1
Favorite one-liner: Whoever said it's impossible to lick your own elbow clearly never owned a hacksaw.
Best experience doing stand-up: The first round of the NCCC last year. After the next-to-last punchline of my set, I looked down and saw a guy in the front row bent double over his table, laughing so hard he was slapping the tabletop. That was a pretty good feeling.
Worst experience doing stand-up: My first open mic. I was still getting the hang of microphone use, so no one could hear my set. Still, it's hard to take yourself seriously as a comic until you've bombed at least once.
What are you doing to prepare?
How long have you prepared? Pretty much just practicing my jokes and the order they go in, although I'm playing around with my opener a bit. It's only three minutes of jokes, so it's not that hard to remember— wait, did you say next Thursday? →
What are you looking forward to the most? The least? I'm actually looking forward to hearing the other team. When you spend so much time thinking about your own material and how to structure it, it's always a breath of fresh air to see how other comics approach their jokes. Not looking forward to when the top four of each team are announced — it's nerve-wracking and kind of serious, and that's no fun.

Name: Matthew R. Rodriguez '11
Major/Area of study: Mechanical Engineering
Years you've done stand-up: 1.5
Years you've competed: 1
Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: I feel like MIT is kind of like a brothel. Because you go into it feeling pretty good. But about halfway through you're like, "What am I doing? I could have paid much less to get screwed somewhere else."



Best experience doing stand-up: Performing at the aquarium in front of all the freshmanz.

Worst experience doing stand-up: Performing at the aquarium with no real mic setup. Hard to get laughs when no one can hear you.

What are you doing to prepare? How long have you prepared? Just locking down the timing of my set. I have my jokes that are tried and true. Now it's just a matter of making sure that I don't run out of time. It doesn't take long considering I've done three-minute sets before.

What are you looking forward to the most? The least?
Most: Performing at a real club!
Least: The snarky things my parents will say about my stand-up. They think they're stand-up comics. Any way we can block their IP address from the site? Who am I kidding, I need the votes.



Name: Jacob S. Sharpe '11
Major/Area of study: Physics
Years you've done stand-up: 2
Years you've competed: 1
Favorite one-liner or joke from your set: Boy, I need some analogy lessons like I need!
Best experience doing stand-up: Every time I've done the best I've ever done. Every time new material works.
Worst experience doing stand-up: Realizing that student audiences are forgiving, and that the real world was really material was mediocre.
Are you how long have you prepared? As possible around Boston to get for this moment since birth.
Hard to the most? The least?



Name: William D. Drevo '13
Major/Area of study: Computer Science
Years you've done stand-up: 1
Years you've competed: 1
Favorite one-liner or joke from your set:
 1. I'm such a badass, I had a one-night stand with Susan Hockfield. *Twice.*
 2. I'm such a badass, I once outclassed Donald Sadoway by wearing a tuxedo. *Over my tuxedo.*
 by wolves who were raised by olves who were shot by Sarah
 t T. Landers '13 for the SAE Date them in a set.)
 : Anytime someone laughs
p: I had a set that really ragged ow that half the crowd was from ell considering, but it was still a
How long have you prepared? repare.
to the most? The least?
 g MIT proud and taking Tufts



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The Black Students' Union (BSU) Lounge (50-105) is a place for BSU members to relax and hold events.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The Green Room in the Infinite Corridor is a popular study destination between classes.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The large Edgerton Lounge (NW10-032) has table-top games and a wide-screen TV.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The Concourse Lounge (16-128), open only to Concourse students, boasts a kitchen and seminar room.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The Tang Hall Lounge features a pool table and a flat panel TV mounted on the wall.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH
The small Edgerton Lounge (NW10-034) has space to chat with friends as well as Athena computers and a printer.

Thursday, March 31st

8 pm

25 Union Square

Boston, MA

GAMBIZA

\$8, 21+

www.gambiza.com

Hennessy's Hooley House



The Council for the Arts at MIT's Grants Program



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Know
something
important we
should write
about?

*(We probably
don't know
about it.)*

Let us know.

news@tech.mit.edu

Postdoc, author, and blogger Calvin Newport shares his ideas on how to excel at MIT

I step into the office of MIT postdoc Calvin C. Newport PhD '09, and his dog Bailey greets me with a couple of excited, energetic yips, prancing back and forth between the open door and the room's strange intruder. Newport watches with amusement from behind a thermos full of coffee. So here's the man behind *How to Win at College*, written while he was still an undergraduate at Dartmouth, and Study Hacks, a study skills blog (<http://www.calnewport.com/blog/>) with over 19,000 readers. Here's the man who preaches "less is more, even when it comes to school," and I get the sense that he applies this generously to his own life. He pursues his interests passionately, saying, "My friends and I had an N64, so we tried to master every level of *Mario Kart*." He gives himself enough free space to create an enjoyable life.

The Tech: I followed your blog during my senior year of high school. It's funny, because students at MIT seem the least likely to read your blog.

TT: But this is MIT — you're not going to get anywhere if you don't pack your schedule or do a bunch of things.

CCN: An MIT student seems to have this notion of “options”: the explanation for taking a class is, “this is to keep my options open in case I want to do this.” There’s this matching game. For different opportunities after college, there are different things you have to do during college, and since you’re unsure of what to do, you try to keep lots of options open.

TT: What compelled you to write *How to Win at College*?

CCN: The first book I wrote because I couldn't find a book quite like it. At that time — this was around 2003 — most of the college advice books were of the survival kind, and you couldn't find a serious book. Publishers were afraid that students would think that it was "un-cool" or something. That's when I

CCN: Yeah. I started Study Hacks after my second book came out, and it was supposed to be material that didn't fit in the book — that's what I thought it would be. What was interesting was that the blog put me in much more rapid back-and-forth communication with students, and that's when I found out about these major issues I hadn't addressed in my books, mainly these issues around cultures at schools — cultures of overwork — where you have to be stressed or overloaded to be successful.

Early in the blog, I did this series called “College Chronicles” where I worked with three students to help them improve their habits, and one of those students was an MIT student. Basically, she had this ludicrously over-scheduled MIT schedule, and it literally didn’t work. I had a schedule that was starting at 8 in the morning and going until 11 at night, and we still weren’t fitting [all the things she had to do] into the week. I thought the obvious solution was to just do less, but she balked at this idea — she refused to do it. That was my rude introduction to the notion that hey, there are these other issues that need to be addressed. The study skills stuff is really important, and if you don’t have good study skills, you’re wasting your time, but I realized I had to also address this sort of cultural issue, these cultures of overwork and stress. Before, I hadn’t even realized that this was a problem.

TT: Did you follow your own advice when you were in college?

CCN: Yeah. I never had an issue with this culture of overwork, because this wasn't an issue with the culture of the time when I was at Dartmouth, but the philosophy that I preach in my model was my philosophy in college. I had my one major, computer science, which I took very seriously, and then my other thing was writing, which I also wanted to take seriously. I was very careful not to let anything else come in there and gunk up my schedule. When I started to do research for computer science, I tried to get grants for over the summer, and then when I had to do it during the school year, [I used] independent study and research courses to gain more time to work on it. I didn't want it to conflict too directly with



my writing. For example, when it got to a point in my senior fall, where either [my independent study] courses or my thesis would take a lot of time, I scaled back my writing responsibilities. I was the editor of a magazine — I passed it on to the next generation. I always wanted focus: a small number of things, with a lot of time to work on them.

Here's the results of those approaches: I started getting serious about academics after my freshman year, so during my sophomore, junior, and senior years, I got a 4.0 every semester except for the last one, where I got one A-. During that entire time, I never once did an all-nighter and very rarely studied at any time past dinner. That came from being very careful about my habits, treating how I study with a lot of respect and care, and also being very careful about not overloading. That led to good places, too; I got to come to MIT, and because of that, it opened up many interesting options and job offers. The same thing with my writing; I wrote my first book at Dartmouth, and I think my writing led to interesting places. For me, it was a success. I really enjoyed my college experience; I rarely felt overloaded. I was very interested in a small number of things and brought them to interesting places, and that was a fulfilling life for me. This is the model I'm preaching to students: do less, but do them very well, and that will lead to many interesting things that's compatible with a life that's actually enjoyable to live.

TT: I think this is a philosophy that will take some time to catch on here. Is there anything you want to tell MIT right now?

CCN: There are a few arguments I've been making recently, and I'm just going to throw them out there. Again, I'm not saying these are right or wrong; I just think this is the

kind of conversation that many more people should be having. In the future, I hope there are a lot of other people who are talking about the same thing, with their own answers but the same conversation we're having.

So here are two things I think are interesting. The first one is that I've been pushing back recently against the survival mindset, where you see what you're doing [in college] as something to survive in order to open up opportunities later. However, the need to stand out in order to have interesting things happen to you doesn't ever go away. It doesn't go away after college — all throughout life you have to continue to be impressive and stand out, so the survival mindset is not sustainable. It's a recipe for a whole life full of "well, I don't enjoy my life right now but maybe somewhere in the future, I will," and what happens is that somewhere in the future keeps moving farther and farther into the future. Then you kind of forget about it altogether, and you're 40 and you have an embarrassing midlife crisis. That's one of the things I've been pushing back against. Your goal in college is to figure out how to be successful and impressive while at the same time enjoying yourself. If you want interesting, fulfilling work that you also enjoy on a day-to-day basis, you have to figure this out, and I think college is the perfect time to do it. How can you be impressive and successful while maintaining the bottom line that you actually enjoy your life on a day-to-day basis? What do you have to do in order to get that?

My message number two is about one way to do that, and that's to do less, but do what you do real better. Be radical in simplicity. Be a minimalist. It's a very interesting life to not be overloaded but to be operating at a very high level.

By Manohar Srikanth
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dazzling earthlings with a stunning view of the moon, the Boston skyline glittered with its jewel. Occurring every 18 years or so, an astronomical event called Supermoon (or more accurately, Perigee-Syzygy) was witnessed on March 19 around 7:20 p.m. in Boston. The Earth, Moon and Sun are in line, and the Moon is in its nearest approach to the Earth, thus appearing about 14 percent larger in size, and reflecting about 30 percent more light.

These photographs were taken from MIT campus at an elevated point, looking towards Boston. I had set up the camera hours before and was waiting for the moonrise through the skyline. The main challenge with capturing this view is that the Moon is much brighter than the surrounding skyline — a high contrast scene, leading to over and under exposed areas.

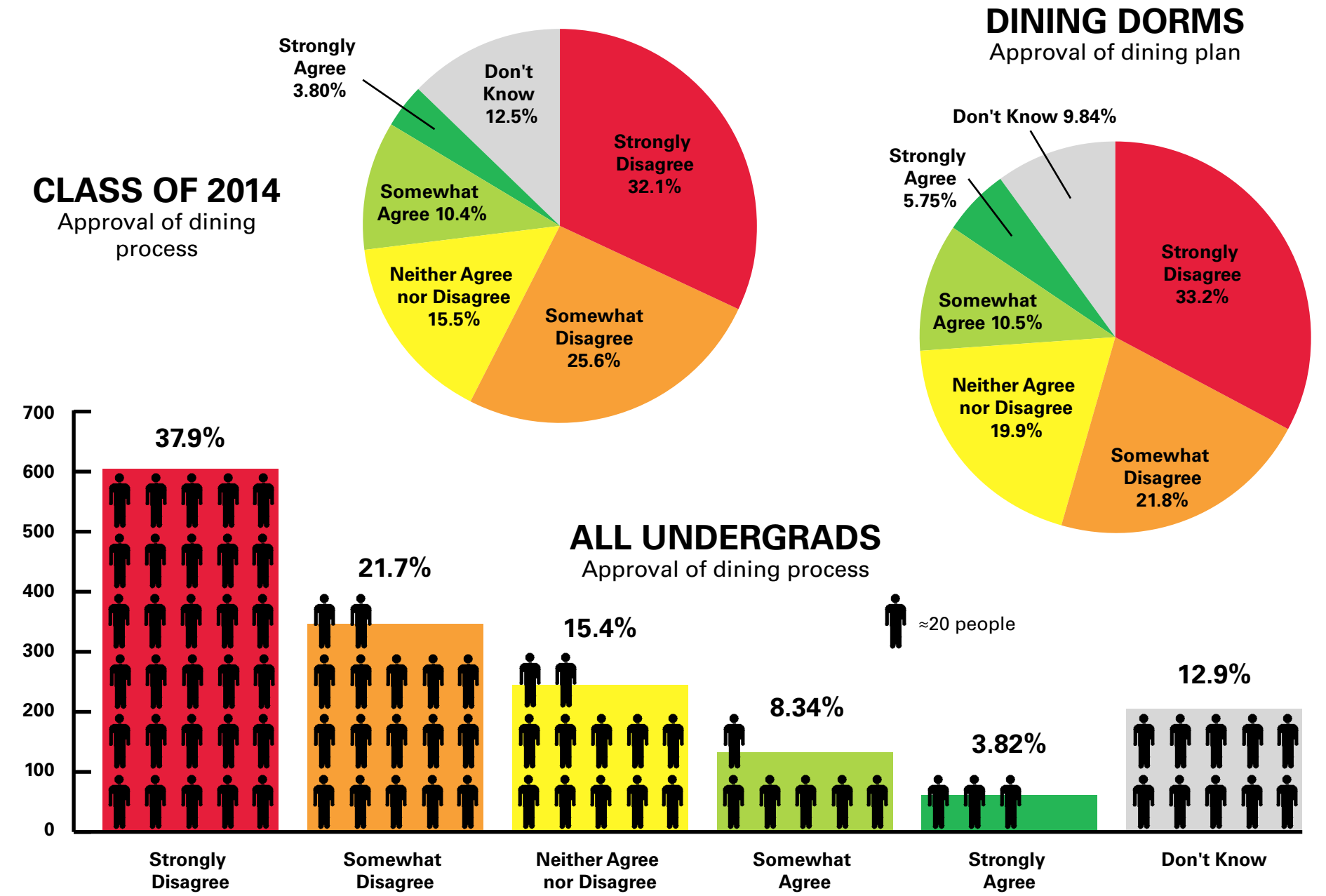


Left:
Aperture:
f/5.0
Exposure Time:
1/12.5 sec.
Sensitivity:
ISO 200
Effective Focal Length:
1425 mm
Date and Time:
7:26 p.m. EST.,
March 19, 2011

Right:
Aperture:
f/2.0
Exposure Time:
1/2 sec.
Sensitivity:
ISO 400
Effective Focal Length:
200 mm
Date and Time:
8:43 p.m. EST.,
March 20, 2011

Students show disapproval of dining plan, process

According to dining referendum, only 12 percent of students approve of HDAG's process



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Medical panelists may have financial conflicts of interest

By Duff Wilson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Doctors with private financial conflicts of interest dominated some of the panels that wrote guidelines on cardiovascular health in recent years, according to a medical journal study released Monday.

The guideline panels are the select groups of experts who are assigned to evaluate science independently and issue their advice to other doctors on what to do in clinical practice. The guidelines influence medical care, product choice, insurance coverage, government policy and malpractice cases.

The study, published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, found that conflicts of interest were reported by 56 percent of 498 people who helped write 17 guidelines for the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology, from 2003 through 2008.

Of people who led those groups, an even higher rate — 81 percent — had personal financial interests in companies affected by their guidelines, the study found.

In a related commentary in the journal, Dr. Steven E. Nissen, chairman of cardiovascular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic and a former president of the American College of Cardiology, called for banning most of those conflicts rather than just disclosing them.

In a joint statement Monday, the cardiology and heart associations said that they had tightened their conflict-of-interest controls in 2010 to align with recommendations from the Council of Medical Specialty Societies. They now require that the people leading the group and a majority of members of any guideline-writing group be free of conflicts of interest.

‘The conflicts are quite prevalent, but they’re by no means ubiquitous.’

Dr. James N. Kirkpatrick, the study’s senior author, said its most important finding may be that 44 percent of guideline writers actually had no financial interests in the area they reviewed. That rebuts the argument that there are not enough experienced experts who are independent, he said.

“The conflicts are quite prevalent, but they’re by no means ubiquitous,” Kirkpatrick, an assistant professor of medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, said in an interview about the research, which was led by Dr. Todd B. Mendelson, now in residency at the University of Pittsburgh.

David J. Rothman, a professor and president of the Institute on Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University, said the study shows an overdue need for change.

“The guy who’s calling balls and strikes should not be a shareholder in one of the teams,” Rothman said. “It’s so self-evident that if you’re going to be doing guidelines, it should be clean. What’s amazing is that it hasn’t been accomplished yet.”

Kirkpatrick said the study focused on cardiology because of its many guidelines and thorough disclosure requirements. Rothman, who was not involved in the study, said that it was also known that car-

diologists, along with psychiatrists and orthopedic physicians, have been well-known for taking industry gifts, honoraria, consulting, and speaking engagements.

The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology statement also said their new policies were “almost perfectly aligned” with an Institute of Medicine report last week. That report proposed the strictest rules yet for it called “standards for developing trustworthy clinical practice guidelines.”

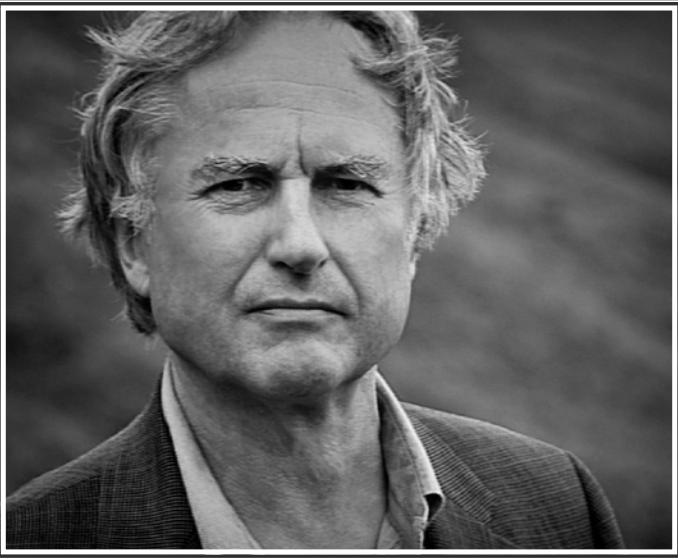
Dr. Sacco said his group applauded the journal’s study and institute’s recommendations.

But the institute, the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, went further than the heart groups. It not only proposed banning conflicts by chairmen and a majority of members, but it said panelists and their family members should divest themselves of financial investments and never participate in marketing activity or advisory boards for affected companies.

Dr. Ralph L. Sacco, president of the American Heart Association, said his group applauded the journal’s study and institute’s recommendations. But he said requiring divestiture could limit the number of experts available to work on guidelines.

“What becomes difficult is some of the experts out there who are well regarded in their field have often conducted research, and some research on devices and drugs is sponsored by companies,” Sacco, chairman of neurology at the University of Miami medical school, said in an interview Monday.

That includes himself. Sacco said he ended his own role in a pharmaceutical company’s research project when he became president-elect of the heart association, a move required by its top officers.



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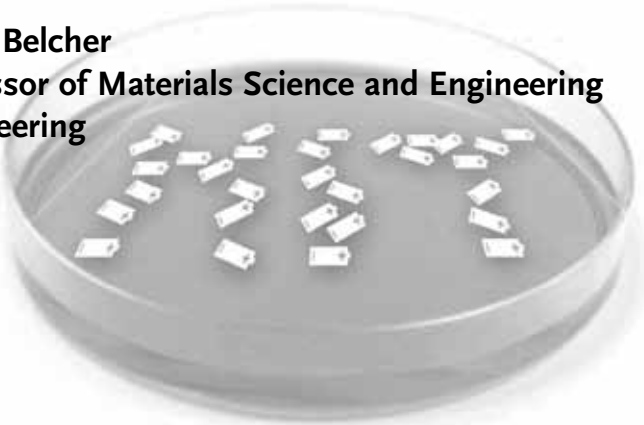
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Course XXII responds to post with department blog

Josef Oehmen, Page 1

media reports likening the crisis at Fukushima to the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. Though he was not a nuclear engineer, Oehmen responded to his cousin's request and said he quickly found that accurate information on the reactor situation was hard to come by.

"There was absolutely no understanding of the context — what's a nuclear reactor about? What's nuclear engineering about?" said Oehmen about media reports at the time of the disaster. To explain whether his cousin was in any danger, Oehmen decided to include a brief, simple description of nuclear physics and how boiling-water reactors — like those at Fukushima — work.

After doing deeper research on the internet, Oehmen came to the conclusion that Morgan had nothing to worry about, even in "a reasonable worst-case scenario."

"My conclusion was: you're safe, don't worry," said Oehmen. He

added that his email was specifically written with his cousin's situation in mind, since Morgan lived far from the reactor site.

Morgan asked if he could share the email with friends and family who were also concerned, and Oehmen agreed. Morgan posted the email on a new blog at <http://morgsatlarge.wordpress.com/> and tweeted it to his 27 followers, according to Oehmen.

Eight hours after uploading the essay at about 3 a.m. EST on Sunday, March 13, Oehmen said the post had garnered over 50,000 views. He said he awoke the next morning to a text message from his cousin: "You'd better check your email"

Upon realizing that his email had gained traction, Oehmen said it "hit me in the gut."

"I hope I did my homework one this one," remembered Oehmen.

"I probably would have pulled the plug if I thought it was possible," said Oehmen. But only hours after uploading, the post had already

been widely disseminated, and even translated into multiple languages. Oehmen said he was also concerned that he had no way to keep the post's information current, so he turned to MIT's Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering (NSE) for help.

After Oehmen contacted Richard K. Lester PhD '80, head of NSE, the department put in place a plan to edit Oehmen's original post for accuracy and put in on a new blog — managed by NSE — where it could be easily complemented with more information about the nuclear crisis in Japan. By Monday evening, the blog went live at <http://mitnse.com/>.

According to the blog's "About" page, it is hosted outside of MIT's domain to take advantage of the Wordpress blogging interface and because it was suspected that high traffic could pose problems for NSE's mit.edu domain.

According to an email from Lester, the MIT NSE Nuclear Information Hub is managed day-to-day by

students in NSE, but faculty provide "reviews and technical support on specific topics."

Oehmen's original post appears on the new NSE site with edits. NSE removed Oehmen's judgments about the safety risk posed by the reactor and his commentary on the general inaccessibility of reliable nuclear information. Oehmen's technical explanation of how reactors work and the events at Fukushima remains largely intact, with some terminology and technical alterations.

"Thank god I didn't write anything majorly stupid," said Oehmen after NSE took over the post. Morgan's original blog now directs users to the NSE post.

But the post has met with controversy. Genius Now's Greg Burton speculated on March 15 that Oehmen's original post, and the NSE website, may have had roots in a pro-nuclear campaign by German electronics and electrical engineering company Siemens AG. The Salon.com article also

noted that a site which republished Oehmen's post — TheEnergyCollective.com — is run by a PR firm which also works for Siemens AG. In an email to *The Tech*, Burton said that he is no longer concerned about the origins of NSE's blog, but still thinks that MIT should have worked harder to ensure the blog "conform[ed] to university standards for publication."

On his part, Oehmen says that the positive feedback he received about his post was "overwhelmingly" more abundant than the negative.

The media's reaction to the post also caught Oehmen off-guard. "You're just some average guy at some university somewhere doing your thing, and then suddenly there's this incredible media interest — what do you do?" said Oehmen.

Oehmen said he received media requests from the BBC, CNBC, PBS, and Reuters, among others. He directed all media inquiries to the MIT News Office.

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Student shuts down laptop thief

Yesterday at 12:30 p.m., a suspected laptop thief was caught and handcuffed in the Stata Center after CSAIL researchers chased him down. Wesley D. Graybill G said that he saw the suspect making a dash for the exit, jumped in front of him, and slammed him into the wall. The suspect slipped by, but Graybill chased him down and was able to pull him to the ground. The researcher caught up and held down the suspect until the Campus Police arrived.

Graybill said that the alleged thief was first spotted on the second floor of the Stata center, holding a possibly stolen lab binder. A CSAIL professor and

some other lab workers engaged the stranger in conversation to buy time for the Campus Police to arrive. The suspect then made a dash for the exit.

Graybill said that in the past few weeks several email warnings regarding laptop thefts were sent to some CSAIL mailing lists. The suspect caught yesterday fits the description from the warnings: a young, black male wearing a baseball cap sideways. According to Graybill, the sought after thief is responsible for around 20-30 laptops.

The MIT Police were not available for comment and did not respond to a request made by *The Tech* at 7 p.m. yesterday.

—Robert McQueen

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

8	4	6	9	1	7	5	3	2
9	7	5	2	3	8	4	6	1
1	3	2	4	5	6	9	8	7
2	1	7	6	9	5	8	4	3
5	6	4	3	8	1	2	7	9
3	9	8	7	2	4	1	5	6
7	5	1	8	6	2	3	9	4
4	8	9	1	7	3	6	2	5
6	2	3	5	4	9	7	1	8

Solution to Techdoku

from page 7

3	1	5	4	6	2
2	6	4	3	5	1
1	5	3	2	4	6
4	2	6	5	1	3
6	4	2	1	3	5
5	3	1	6	2	4

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Dining to continue ahead, as planned

Referendum, Page 1

disagree” or vote “don’t know.”

Of those voting students that live in dining dorms, 56 percent voted against the dining plan and 54 percent in disapproval of HDAG’s procedure. In particular, although the Class of 2014 was notified by the DSL of the pending changes to the dining plan prior to entering MIT, 57 percent voted against the plan, and only 11 percent of the class approved of HDAG’s process.

When asked why he had sponsored the dining referendum, Chen said, “I hoped to bring up the issue of student engagement.” Chen acknowledged that the results showed that students were clearly dissatisfied with how the process was conducted.

Of more interest is the UA’s response to the referendum results. “The next step for the UA will be to communicate the results to the relevant administrators,” said Vrajesh Y. Modi ’11, president of the UA, in an email to *The Tech*. “To the best of my knowledge, this is the most comprehensive data collected on ... how different cross-sections of the student population feel about the plan.”

During the presidential debates, president-elect Miramonti said that “nothing was set in stone” regarding the dining plan. Vice President-elect Lai expressed similar sentiments: “Everything is still up to change,” he said. “They haven’t signed the contract yet.” When asked if he was aware that vendors were in the process of being chosen, however, Lai said, “It is going to be really, really hard — maybe impossible — to turn it around, but we’re not giving up.”

Chen was more wary: “Right now, the plan looks like it might be final — the only thing we can do at

this point is [to adjust] the details to make it better for students.” According to Chen and Lai, the UA Senate is not yet decided on its next course of action.

“We want to make sure we’re all on the same page,” Lai said of Monday night’s Senate meeting. “We were focused on structural changes to the Senate. ... [Dining] was not our priority.”

Henry J. Humphreys, senior associate dean of residential life and dining, said that he had anticipated the negative response from the referendum before the results were released.

“The way I’m looking at it, I came onboard two years into the process, and I saw an unprecedented amount of student involvement,” Humphreys said.

Comparing MIT’s efforts to integrate and accommodate student responses to the efforts of other schools’ to do the same, Humphreys noted that “most institutions would not make such an effort to involve students, and I think this speaks as much for the kind of institution that MIT is — students’ voices were heard and adjustments were made.”

The administration is in the process of rolling out the dining vendor details. “We announced what the [dining] program is at the end of last semester,” Humphreys said, with all indication that the question of dining itself was decided and set in stone. “We’ve told the UA and DormCon that we’re wrapping up the process of choosing a vendor, and we welcome student dialogue in the implementing of dining.”

Implementation will be a two-part process: Renovating existing kitchen facilities in non-dining dormitories, and forming a committee to work on implementing the dining plan for dining communities. “Renovations will probably start by June 2012,” said Humphreys. “But the planning process will begin this spring, as soon as a vendor is announced.”

“I hope to present the issue of dining to the Senate for open discussion,” said Chen. What the UA hopes to accomplish is not clear at this point, given the finality of the administration’s decision. Nonetheless, as Chen stated, “it is crucial that we involve everyone.” In respect to the last note, it would seem that the UA and administration are in agreement.

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

A	R	I	A		S	C	R	A	P	H	E	A	P	S
R	A	P	S		T	H	E	T	H	I	N	M	A	N
C	R	O	C		S	O	L	I	D	S	T	A	T	E
H	A	D	E	S		K	I	T	S		E	Z	R	A
W	A	N	N	A	B	E	T			B	R	O	O	K
A	V	A	T	A				P	L	A	I	N	L	Y
Y	I	N		R	O	A	D	S	I	G	N			
	S	O	D		N	O	D	A	T		G	E	T	
			J	A	C	K	E	T	E	D		G	R	R
C	A	S	I	N	O	S		R	E	G	G	A	E	
L	I	E	B	Y		C	O	S	M	E	T	I	C	
A	R	N	O		V	C	R	S		S	L	I	N	K
I	M	O	U	T	A	H	E	R	E		A	M	S	O
M	A	R	T	I	N	A	M	I	S		T	E	E	N
S	N	A	I	L	S	P	A	C	E		O	R	T	S



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President: Amanda David

Vice President: Chazz Sims

Publicity Chairs: Denzil Sikka and Elise Stave

Secretary: Bahar Shah

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Publicity Chairs: Dorian Burks and Candace Chen

Secretary: Yi Wu

Treasurer: Jonathan Chien

Social Chair: Oliver Song

UA might see drastic changes

Three bills proposing major restructuring to the UA was presented to the Senate last night. Two of the bills, one submitted by Vrajesh Y. Modi '11, current President of the UA, and the other submitted by Jonté D. Craighead '13, current Speaker of the Senate. Both offer competing solutions to the problem of fragmentation among the five undergraduate governing bodies: UA, IFC, DormCon, Panhel, and LGC.

42 UAS 14.2, submitted by Modi, proposes a new constitution for the UA with major changes that include dissolving the Senate and replacing it with a Council made up of the presidents of the 12 dormitories, the IFC, speaker of LGC, and an elected off-campus representative.

In contrast, 42 UAS 14.3 proposed to append a section in the existing constitution that retains the Senate but also forms an Undergraduate Coordinating Committee (UCC). However, the bill was voted down by the senate last night.

The last bill, 42 UAS 14.1 was passed last night, forming an ad hoc committee that will review the current structure of the UA and recommend changes. It will also consider 42 UAS 14.2. This committee will comprise of Senate-elected members and general student members. Timothy R. Jenks '13, a Senator for Fraternities, was approved as the head of this ad hoc committee and will hold interviews for general members today at 8 p.m.

The ad hoc committee is expected to propose their recommendations on the restructuring of the UA next Monday at the UA Senate meeting.

—Jingyun Fan

Ethnic clashes fuel debate over US plan to leave Iraq

By Time Arango

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KIRKUK, Iraq — Many in this divided city want U.S. troops to stay longer than President Barack Obama's administration has said they will, and a tense standoff last week showed why. Kurdish troops from the north were in positions on the outskirts of Arab neighborhoods.

To calm the latest flare-up of the longstanding ethnic rivalries here has required a rush of high-level diplomacy, including phone calls from Vice President Joe Biden to Kurdish leaders and the deployment of U.S. troops, a rarity in Iraq today.

The confrontation did not turn violent — precisely, many believe, because of the presence of U.S. troops. But they will leave by the end of the year, if the current schedule stands, and many here fear that could lead to ethnic strife, even civil war.

The Kurdish soldiers, known as the pesh merga, were deployed last month by leaders in the semi-autonomous northern region worried about Sunni Arab insurgents attacking peaceful demonstrators. But the action was viewed by local Arabs, U.S. diplomats and military officials, and the Iraqi government as provocative and illegal.

Kurdish officials said Monday that the troops had withdrawn as part of a deal with the Americans and the central government, although a witness in Kirkuk report-

ed seeing the troops in their same positions, and an Arab lawmaker in the local council said that only some soldiers had left.

In the debates under way in Washington and Baghdad about where the U.S.-Iraq relationship heads after eight years of war, those who argue for a continued U.S. military presence beyond this year cite Kirkuk as the centerpiece of their case.


Perhaps the greatest unfinished chapter of America's war in Iraq will be the status of this ancient city that today is fought over by its three main ethnic groups, Kurds, Arabs, and Turkmens, each making historical claims to the land and the oil that flows beneath.

U.S. troops had withdrawn as part of a deal.

Across Iraq, the U.S. invasion upended traditional notions of victimhood — the long-oppressed Shiites became ascendant, while the Sunni ruling elite under Saddam Hussein's Baath Party found itself on the margins. In Kirkuk, the Kurds, who had been brutalized by the former government, have the strongest grip on power. The Arabs, many of whom were moved to the area by Hussein in his campaign to alter the demographics and dilute Kurdish influence, are fighting for their own stake in the new Iraq.

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Disaster-struck Japan faces power gap for months

With an estimated 11 percent of total power out of service, Tokyo rations power

By David Jolly
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO — The term “rolling blackouts” has become shorthand for noting one way Japan is trying to cope with its national calamity.

Shorthand should not be confused with short term. Utility experts and economists say it will take many months, possibly into next year, to get anywhere close to restoring full power.

The places most affected are not only in the earthquake-ravaged area, but also in the economically crucial region closer to Tokyo, which is having to ration power because of the big chunk of the nation’s electrical generating capacity that was knocked out by the quake or washed away by the tsunami.

Besides the dangerously disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, three other nuclear plants, six coal-fired plants, and 11 oil-fired power plants were initially shut down, according to PFC Energy, an international consulting firm.

By some measures, as much as 20 percent of the total generating capacity of the region’s dominant utility, the Tokyo Electric Power Co. — or an estimated 11 percent of Japan’s total power — is out of service.

Until all the lost or suspended generating capacity is replaced, economists say, factories will operate at reduced levels, untold numbers of cars and other products will go unbuilt and legions of shoppers will cut back their buying — all taking a big toll on Japan’s economy.

The greater Tokyo region represents one-third of the nation’s economic output.

Masaaki Kanno, chief econo-

mist at JPMorgan Securities Japan, estimates that the country’s gross domestic product will shrink in the second quarter by about 3 percent on an annualized basis, with about half of that decline resulting from the power shortage.

A recovery will gradually begin to take hold in the third quarter, he said, as the need to rebuild the northeast portion of Japan’s main island, Honshu, acts as a major economic stimulus. But the power shortage will be a drag on economic growth for some time to come.

“We hadn’t initially expected the quake to impact the national economy to this degree,” Kanno said. But the lingering power shortages will be widespread, he said. Besides the direct effects on businesses, consumers “won’t go out as much and they’ll have to get home earlier,” he said, meaning they will not spend as much.

Tokyo Electric has been using rolling blackouts of up to three hours in designated zones to balance demand and supply. The cuts have at times been poorly communicated, further disrupting businesses already reeling from logistical problems and damage to factories in the north.

And Tokyo, more than most places in Japan, is highly dependent on electric trains and subways for commuting, so when there are blackouts, lots of people cannot get to work or easily organize their days.

“In the short term, it will be very difficult to make up the loss of power from the Daiichi plant,” Masakazu Toyoda, chairman of the Institute of Energy Economics, a research organization affiliated with the Ministry of Economy, Trade

and Industry, said. “At the summer peak, the shortfall will be in the 10 percent to 20 percent range.”

Tokyo Electric now has an operating capacity of 37 gigawatts and expects to be back up to about 54 gigawatts by summer, according to PFC Energy. (Each gigawatt is sufficient to power about 250,000 Japanese households.)

But Tokyo Electric’s peak summer demand is usually 60 gigawatts, according to PFC, meaning at least a 10 percent shortfall. Some economists say privately that the shortfall could turn out to be more than twice that large.

Tokyo Electric is trying to make up the lost generating capacity by restarting shuttered plants, repairing the damaged ones, tapping hydropower reserves, and temporarily operating gas turbines. But summer blackouts are inevitable, with plans for many areas to go without electricity for an hour or two at the hottest part of the day.

In theory, the Tokyo area could import electricity from the south. But a historical rivalry between Tokyo and the city of Osaka led the two areas to develop grids using different frequencies — Osaka’s is 60 cycles and Tokyo’s is 50 cycles — so sharing is inefficient.

There are transfer stations, but they have limited capacity. And the hand-off is comparable to two railroads that use different gauge tracks and have to unload cargo from one train and reload it onto another at the place the tracks meet.

“The simplest way to solve the problem is through conservation,” Toyoda said, “so the question of how to encourage that with the least impact is on the government’s agenda.”

Ultimately, the need to conserve energy could force Japanese companies — already among the most efficient in the world — to emerge even leaner and more competitive. But that is little consolation now.

Toyoda said policy makers would aim most conservation measures at consumers, rather than businesses, because households’ share of electricity consumption has been rising for decades.

“In 1973, the ratio of electricity used by industry was 50 percent,” he said. “Now it’s just over 30 percent.”

The energy crisis has even led officials to consider the unthinkable: Instituting daylight saving time, something they have previously declined to adopt because it might cause confusion.

Industry, meantime, has recognized the importance of a coordinated response.

Members of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers’ Association — including Toyota, Nissan, and Honda — are considering apportioning full days of power cuts among themselves, according to the Nikkei newspaper, as they seek to avoid power cuts that wreak havoc on manufacturing equipment.

Hirokazu Furukawa, an association spokesman, confirmed that the automakers were studying possible cooperation, but he said that the complicated matter would require more study and that no deal had been reached.

In 2005, the Environment Ministry introduced an experiment, called Cool Biz Japan, to save energy by cutting the cost of operating air-conditioning systems in Tokyo, where the summer heat and humidity rival that of Washington. As part of the plan, thermostats in gov-

ernment buildings were raised to about 82 degrees Fahrenheit.

Setting an example, the prime minister at the time, Junichiro Koizumi, adopted an open-collar look that helped to make him something of a fashion leader.

But Kazuharu Aizawa, a spokesman for the environment ministry, noted that more than 62 percent of Japanese had adopted the Cool Biz air-conditioning goal, so the room for additional energy savings this summer through turning up the thermostat would be limited.

“Many people are going to have to turn off the air-con altogether,” he said.

Ken Belson contributed reporting.

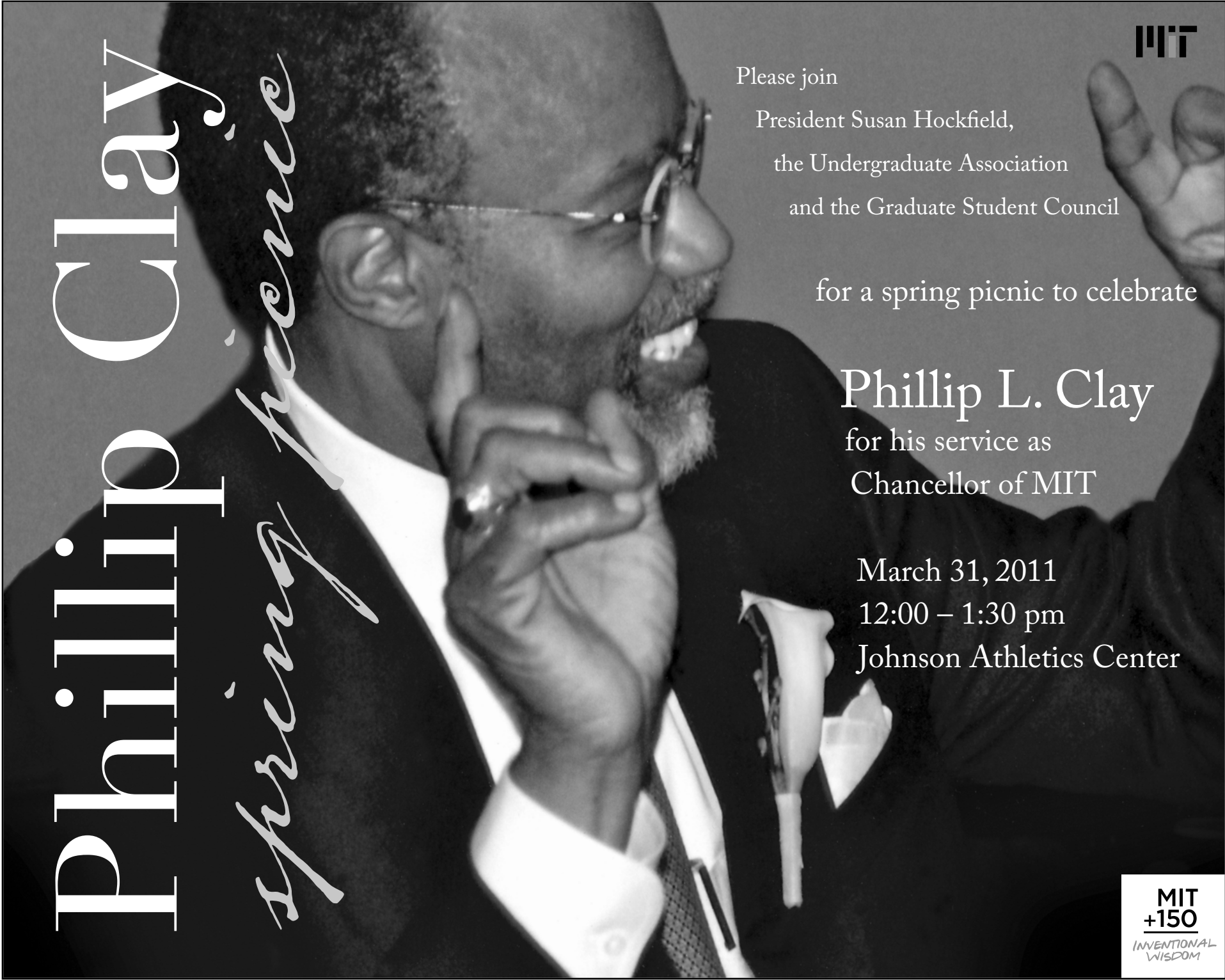



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Johnson Athletics Center



Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Oct. 8, 2008 and March 20, 2011. The dates below reflect the dates the incidents occurred. This information is compiled from the Campus Police's crime log. The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher.

Oct 28, 2008	Bldg. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 3:18 p.m., Detective takes report of a harassing email.		
Jan 01	Bldg. E38 (292 Main St.), 12:00 p.m., Past larceny of items.	Feb 23	p.m., Past burglary of electronics and credit card. Report taken by West car officer.
Jan 15	Bldg. W13 (52 Mass. Ave.), 9:00 p.m., iPhone taken.	Feb 24	Bldg. 41 (77 Vassar St.), 8:00 p.m., Larceny of wallet from W35 last evening. Report taken.
Jan 24	Bldg. 36 (50 Vassar St.), 12:00 p.m., After reading an article in the paper caller states he was a victim of Mr. Elliot's scam. Sector 3 responds to file report.	Feb 25	Bldg. 33 (125 Mass. Ave), 12:00 p.m., Laptop stolen from office.
Jan 30	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 3:30 p.m., Larceny of wallet from locker.	Feb 25	Bldg. 26 (60 Vassar St.), 2:27 a.m., Report of group of students under Bldg. 26 pass through with an active fire burning. Officers respond and fire extinguished.
Feb 06	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 5:30 p.m., Report of past assault during soccer game. Car 282 takes report.	Feb 25	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 3:45 p.m., Sector 4 takes report of a stolen wallet.
Feb 07	Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 10:00 a.m., Report of stolen bicycle.	Feb 25	Bldg. 33 (125 Mass. Ave.), 6:20 p.m., Sector 3 takes a report of a laptop and iPhone stolen from a room left ajar. Suspicious persons seen fleeing area.
Feb 07	Bldg. 1 (33 Mass. Ave.), 12:00 p.m., Larceny of laptop.	Feb 27	64 Bay State Rd. (Theta Xi), 12:20 a.m., Report of people trying to gain access by rear fire escape. Officers respond after suspect had fled scene.
Feb 07	Bldg. 7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 12:20 p.m., Sector 3 officer takes report of stolen laptop and cellphone.	Feb 27	450 Beacon St. (Pi Lambda Phi), 1:22 a.m., Report of malicious damage to a table.
Feb 07	Bldg. 62 (Ames St.), 6:05 p.m., Harassment by alumni. Report taken.	Feb 27	Bldg. 31 (70 Rear Vassar St.), 6:30 a.m., Caller reports past larceny of laptop. Sector 3 takes report.
Feb 09	Bldg. 14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 2:00 p.m., Cell phone stolen from office, Sector 2 takes report.	Mar 01	Bldg. WW15 (350 Brookline St.), 6:57 a.m., Suspicious package received. West car officer takes report.
Feb 10	Bldg. 4 (182 Memorial Dr.), 8:00 p.m., Breaking and entry into refrigerator, Sector 3 takes report.	Mar 02	Bldg. 7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 8:00 a.m., Malicious damage to lights. Sector 3 officer takes report.
Feb 11	Bldg. E25 (45 Carlton St.), 1:00 p.m., Larceny of computer, Sector 1 takes report.	Mar 02	Bldg. 26 (60 Vassar St.), 6:24 p.m., Report of suspicious white male outside of room 241. Person checks OK, all units clear.
Feb 12	Bldg. 4 (182 Memorial Dr.), 4:20 p.m., Sector 3 takes report of stolen backpack.	Mar 02	Bldg. 8 (77 Mass. Ave.), 7:00 p.m., Report of laptop stolen from lounge.
Feb 14	Bldg. W20 (Student Center, 84 Mass. Ave.), 5:16 p.m., iPhone left unattended was stolen.	Mar 03	Bldg. 56 (21 Ames St.), 2:04 a.m., Report of homeless in basement. Sectors 1 and 2 respond.
Feb 16	Bldg. 50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 8:56 p.m., Attempted breaking and entry. Sector 2 takes report.	Mar 03	Bldg. W13 (52 Mass. Ave), 6:44 a.m., Report of subject who climbed through window being detained. Calvrett Aninye, 90 Norfolk St., Cambridge MA arrested for breaking and entering.
Feb 16	Bldg. 41 (77 Vassar St.), 2:35 p.m., Larceny of camera, Sector 2 takes report.	Mar 03	Bldg. 76 (476 Main St.), 12:00 p.m., Larceny of chairs.
Feb 20	Cross St., 2:00 p.m., Side view mirror of car was smashed while parked on Cross St. by NW10.	Mar 03	Bldg. E14 (75 Amherst St.), 8:00 p.m., Sector 1 takes larceny report of a key.
Feb 20	Bldg. W7 (Baker House, 362 Memorial Dr.), 3:00 p.m., Report of hateful graffiti spray painted in dorm.	Mar 05	Bldg. 7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 5:47 a.m., Passengers for Wellesley bus cause a disturbance.
Feb 21	Mass. Ave and Beacon St., Boston, 3:00 a.m., Report of assault. Crime alert bulletin issued.	Mar 06	Bldg. W70 (New House, 471 Memorial Dr.), 2:16 a.m., Report of fight in alley. Jacob K. Wamala '12, of 471 Memorial Dr., Apt. 505, Cambridge MA, arrested for disorderly conduct.
Feb 22	Bldg. 71 (Next House, 500 Memorial Dr.), 2:00 a.m., Larceny of laptop.	Mar 06	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 2:10 p.m., Report of
Feb 22	Bldg. 37 (70 Vassar St.), 7:35 a.m., Report of homeless man sleeping under stairs. August E. Linzel, of 240 Albany Street, Cambridge MA, arrested for trespassing and outstanding warrant.		
Feb 22	403 Memorial Dr. (Delta Kappa Epsilon), 12:00		
		Mar 06	suspicious male and a lost and found jacket.
		Mar 06	428 Memorial Dr. (No. 6 Club), 11:30 p.m., Report of stolen TV from basement.
		Mar 07	Bldg. E25 (45 Carlton St.), 1:00 p.m., Stolen computer.
		Mar 08	Bldg. W51 (Burton-Conner House, 410 Memorial Dr.), 4:28 a.m., Units dispatched for people asleep in lounge area.
		Mar 08	Bldg. 10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 2:00 p.m., Larceny report of a wallet.
		Mar 08	Bldg. 50 (141 Memorial Dr.), 3:00 p.m., Sector 2 takes a larceny report of a backpack.
		Mar 09	Bldg. NE49 (600 Tech Sq.), 1:22 p.m., East car takes a larceny report of a circuit breaker.
		Mar 09	Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 2:05 p.m., Sector 1 takes a larceny report.
		Mar 09	Bldg. W59 (201 Vassar St.), 11:31 p.m., Report of unwanted person in room, refusing to leave area. Units respond with housing to assist. Person left area before units arrived.
		Mar 11	Bldg. NW14 (150 Albany St.), 2:13 p.m., Received call for a break into construction area. Individual stopped and checked out OK.
		Mar 11	Bldg. W16 (48 Mass. Ave.), 5:00 p.m., Vandalism to property at Kresge. Sector 4 dispatched.
		Mar 12	Bldg. E55 (60 Wadsworth St.), 10:00 p.m., Items thrown into courtyard.
		Mar 13	Bldg. W45 (125 Vassar St.), 7:00 a.m., Car parked in West garage damaged. Sector 4 officer takes report.
		Mar 13	Bldg. W13 (52 Mass. Ave.), 10:21 p.m., Trespassing arrest of Calvrett Aninyne, 90 Norfolk St., Cambridge MA.
		Mar 14	Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 1:00 p.m., Larceny of laptop.
		Mar 17	Bldg. 51 (134 Memorial Dr.), 4:00 p.m., Report of stolen wallet from area.
		Mar 17	20 Albany St. (Albany Garage), 7:04 p.m., Report of suspicious persons on top floor stairwell. Arrested Craig Curley, of 94 Summer St., Watertown MA and Lisa Hal, of 240 Albany St., Cambridge MA, for trespassing and possession of a class A (heroin).
		Mar 18	Bldg. 3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 1:00 p.m., Larceny of laptop.
		Mar 19	Bldg. E62 (100 Main St.), 11:00 a.m., Victim reports her bag was stolen. East car dispatched.
		Mar 20	Bldg. W35 (100 Vassar St.), 5:00 p.m., Sector 3 takes a report of larceny.

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Cycling races in Philly

MIT places 2nd with strong team time trials

By Martha Buckley
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

The MIT cycling team traveled to Philadelphia this weekend for the third race in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC) road-racing season. The weekend opened with the first team time trial (TTT) of the season. The TTT is generally MIT's strongest event, as the teams make it a priority to practice together often — and the practice certainly paid off. The women's A, men's B, and men's C teams won the event.

The next event was the road race, which consisted of 2-5 loops of a 6-mile course around Fairmount Park, complete with windy flat sections, several short hills, and some technical descents. Joseph P. Near '10, who had just upgraded from the D level after winning both races at Rutgers, placed second in the field sprint of the men's C race, despite spending most of the race successfully chasing down a rider off the front. In the women's A race, Laura R. Ralston G and Katie J. Quinn G dominated the race. On the first loop, Quinn broke up the field by motoring up the first climb, and then Ralston attacked the small front group to get a gap on the field. Quinn let others do the work trying to pull in her teammate before dropping the group on the climb and bridging to Ralston. Ralston and Quinn time trialed together for

the rest of the race, easily holding off the rest of the field to place first and second.

The weekend ended with a new course on Temple University's campus. In the men's C race, Matthieu G. Talpe '11, Near, and Sebastien Gauthier-Perron G placed first, second, and third in the first prime, gapped the field and never looked back. They held off the field for the entire race to take the first three places. Teammates Andrew C. Lysaght G and Zachary W. Ullissi G were instrumental in blocking to help their teammates stay off the front, and Lysaght still managed to take second in the field sprint to finish fifth overall. Much-needed points in the higher categories were scored by Sam W. Hickey G, Adam P. Bry G, and Spencer D. Schaber G, who all finished in the top 10 of the men's B race. The weekend ended with utter domination of the women's A/B race by Quinn, Ralston, and Christina M. Birch G. Quinn, Ralson, and Birch took turns attacking the field, and finally an attack by Quinn stuck. Quinn soloed the rest of the race to take the win, and Ralston snatched second in all of the primes and won the field sprint. Birch took ninth overall, giving her a third-place finish in the B field.

MIT earned second place in the team omnium for the weekend, only 14 points shy of winner Penn State and with almost twice as many points as the third place team, the University of Pennsylvania.

Next weekend the MIT team travels to Troy, N.Y., for the RPI Tour of Troy.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 29

Men's Baseball vs. WPI

3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Men's Tennis vs. Salem State

4 p.m., Carr Indoor Courts

Men's Lacrosse vs. UMass Dartmouth

7 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

MIT wins NECVA title

Volleyball finishes 15-1 in conference play

By Paul Dill
HEAD COACH

The nationally-ranked No. 10 MIT Men's Volleyball team wrapped up regular-season play with a hard-fought 41-



39, 25-20, 25-17 victory over North East Collegiate Volleyball Association (NECVA) New England Division foe Wentworth Institute of Technology on Friday night.

The Engineers finished the New England Division standings with a ledger of 15-1 and an overall mark of 28-6 to earn their first NECVA New England title since 2007.

The Engineers maintained a slight edge during the early stages of the first set, but the Leopards stayed within striking distance as an MIT hitting error brought them within one (14-13). MIT responded with six straights points; however, Wentworth put together a 9-3 spurt to

once again close the gap to one (23-22).

A strike by William B. Evans '14 gave the hosts set point, but the Leopards registered the next three to reclaim the lead at 25-24. MIT capitalized on a kill from Kenneth M. Siebert '14 and a hitting error to go in front. Following a service error that knotted the set at 26, eight lead changes and eleven set-point opportunities ensued.

In the second set the Engineers quickly established a 5-1 lead, but Wentworth battled back and evened the score at 11. MIT picked up six of the next nine points to gain some breathing room, yet the Leopards countered with a 4-1 spurt to tie the set at 18. The Engineers responded by closing out the game with a 7-2 run.

MIT inched out to a 7-6 advantage in the final set, but Wentworth rattled off seven of the next eleven points to capture the lead. A strike by Garrett L. Winther '11 sparked the Engineers' 14-4 match closing run.

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import new_skills

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python

if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```


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Sports

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